



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Abolition of Capital Punishment for Juveniles

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Paul W. Jones
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 3, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On March 1, in the case of *Roper vs. Simmons*, the United States Supreme Court held that “the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments [of the United States Constitution] forbid the imposition of the death penalty on offenders who were under the age of 18 when their crimes were committed.”

Mr. Chairman, we thought it important to bring this decision to your attention, given the interest that many in the international community have expressed in this issue.

Thank you.